

as he dyd tofore. Whan saynt Marcyall came agayn to the corpe he touched it wth the burdon lyke as saynt Peter bad him. And anone he was reysed fro deth to lyf. After whā saynt Marcyall had iourneyd longe by dyuerse countrees in longe preachinge & shewingge þ^e worde of god/they came in to Guyan to a castel called Tulle and there were receyued of a ryche man & a myghty named Arnolde whiche had a doughter þ^e dayly was turmēted with the enemy. Thus as saynt Marcyall entered in to þ^e hous/ the fende began to crye sayenge. I knowe wel now that I must yssue out of þ^e body of this mayde. For þ^e aūgels of paradysē þ^e ben with the Marcyall turmēt me ryght greuouly/ but I praye the by þ^e name of hym þ^e was crucyfyed whome þ^e prcheest of/ that þ^e sende me not in to þ^e abyssme of hell. Than saint Marcyall sayd to hym/ I coniure the in þ^e name of Jesu chryst þ^e was crucyfyed for vs that thou yssue out of the body of this mayde/ & neuer retorne agayn/ but that thou go to a place desert/ where byrde ne fowle ne persone dwelleth. With this cōmaūdement þ^e mayde kest out þ^e enemy & she fell downe as deed. Than saynt Marcyall toke her by þ^e hande & reysed her bp & delyuered her to her fader hole & safe. Holynes & benygnyte with all humylyte shone in saynt Marcyall/ & was alwaye in prayers. ¶ Another myracle also our lordē shewēd by þ^e prayers of saynt Marcyall in þ^e same place. The prfē of þ^e sayd castel whiche was called Perua/ & was colyn to þ^e emperour Nero/ had a doughter whiche was suffocate & murdered by the fende & was deed. Than þ^e fader & moder of þ^e chylde þ^e were moche sorowfull & heuy wth a grete parte of þ^e people brought the body of þ^e child tofore saynt Marcyall tenderly wepyngge & sayenge to hym. O man of god helpe vs at this tyme/ þ^e seest how it is with vs. Whan saynt Marcyall sawe þ^e lamentacyon & the sorowe þ^e they

made/ he had pyte on them/ & sayd with a hye voyce. I praye you all as wel chrysten as paynymys/ that ye wyll deuoutly praye god almyghty/ þ^e by his benygnyte it please hym to gyue agayn þ^e lyf to this childe. The two discyples of saynt Marcyall & a fewe chrysten people that were there put them to prayers/ & syth saynt Marcyall hyselke made his prayer sayenge. Syr I praye the in the name of thy blyssed dere sone/ and of thy good frende saynt Peter/ by þ^e ordynance & cōmaūdement of whom I am comen hyther/ þ^e it please the to reyse this childe here/ to the ende þ^e whā he shall be reysed many may byleue in thyn holy and precyous name. Than saynt Marcyall trustyngge in the helpe of god toke the childe by the hande sayenge to her. In þ^e name of our lord Jesu chryst þ^e of the iewes for vs was crucyfyed/ & þ^e thyrde daye arose fro deth to lyf arysē bp & stāde ryght on thy feet. Anone the childe arose ryght vpon his feet/ and syth kneled downe to þ^e feet of þ^e holy man sayenge to her. O man of god I requyre the to baptysē me/ to þ^e ende þ^e I may be saued/ & marke me with þ^e signe of þ^e holy crosse/ for other wyse may none be saued but yf he be baptysed. Anone saynt Marcyall baptysed her/ & with her in þ^e same place were well chrystened also as well men as women. iij. M. and. vij. C. ¶ And after this saynt Marcyall went and destroyed the ydolles and brought them to nought. Fro thens went saynt Marcyall & his two discyples & departed & came to lymoges/ where they were benygnyly receyued of a matrone þ^e was named Susanne/ in whose presence saynt Marcyall heled one that was frantkye. Whan the good woman Susanne sawe þ^e miracle þ^e so was made in her presence/ anone she & her meyny were baptised. After this saynt Marcyall went in to þ^e temple where the priestes of þ^e ydols were/ þ^e whiche bette hym greuouly/ & syth put him in prison

t. f.

Lord xpm go with me and let me enter in
 I pray the mercifully in Jesus name Amen

The lyfe of saynt Marcyall.

On the morow as he made his prayer there descended a lyght so grete vpon hym that men myght not beholde hym. The chaynes of yren to brest / & y doores of y prison opened / y keepers & they y were there requyred to be baptyfed. And y prestes y had so beten hym were smytten to deth by thonder & lyghtnynge. Thā other y were there came to saynt Marcyall in to prison & prayed hym y he wold reyse them y so were smytten to deth by y thondre / pmy syng to hym y yf he dyd they all wold be baptyfed. Thā our lord by his prayer reysed them agayne fro deth to lyfe. Than y same tyme were turned to chrysten sayth and baptised. xij. M. creatures as men & women. And after this on a tyme dyed y holy woman Susanne / & tofore her deth she recomaunded to saynt Marcyall her doughter y was called Valerien / whiche had pmyfed & auowed to our lord chastite as long as she lyued. After whan the holy mayde knewe y there shold come to lymoges a lord named Steuen / whiche was lord of all y prouynce fro y ryuer of rosne vnto y see / she was soze aferde lest he wolde do to her ony grete or noyaunce agaynst her auowe / & gaue away all her rychesses to pooze folke for y loue of god. Whan y sayd Steuen was come to limoges / he made do come tofore hym y holy mayde / to y ende to haue his Wyl of her / but whā she was come & sawe y she wold not consent to do his Wyl / anone he made her heed to be smytten of. Than y squyer that byheded her herde y aūgelles syng that bare the soule of y holy virgyn in to heuen w meche grete ioye & solempnyte anone he returned vnto his maister / and tolde hym all that he had seen & herde / & syth fell downe deed at his feet. Than y duke & all his company had moche grete dredde / and the duke himselfe cladde hym nexte his flesshe in a sharpe hayz & harde for grete repentaunce / and prayed saynt Marcyall that he wold praye god that it

might please him to reyse his squyer fro deth to lyfe / & he wolde byleue in y sayth of Iesu chryst & be chrystened. Anone after y saynt Marcial had prayed / our lord reysed y squyer. Than y duke & wel a. x. M. psones in his cōpany were baptyfed. In this tyme y same duke by y cōmaundement of the emperour Nero went in to Italye w a grete company of men of armes. Whan he had accomplished y cōmaundement of Nero / they went to Rome for to se saynt Peter / Whome they foude prechynge to the people / Whiche people were barefote & had clothed them w the hayz lyenge on y groude tofore saynt Peter in demaūdyng hym pardon of theyz synnes. Whan saynt Peter sawe y duke & so moche sayre people i his cōpany / he demaūded them what they were & of what couētree. Than y duke tolde hym by ordre how he & his cōpany had ben couerted & baptyfed of saynt Marcyall. After whan they were deputed fro roine they thought that they wolde go se saynt Marcyall tofore or they returned in to theyz couētree. Thus thā as they were lodged nygh by a ryuer / & the sone of y erle of Boytyers bayned hym in y sayd ryuer / the enemye the deuyl drowned & smored hym to the deth. Whan his fader knewe it he went wepyng tenderly to saynt Marcyall / & prayed hym to reyse his sone fro deth to lyf. Thā saynt Marcyall went to y place where as he was drowned / & cōmaūded to the fende to byng y body out of y water / & y he shold appere in a lykenes byslyble tofore them all. Anone yssued out of y water thze fendes lyke ethiopyens more blacke than coles / & had terryble feet and eyen / & grete heere y couered al y body / & cast out at theyz mouthes & nosethylles fyre lyke byrmstone / & cryed lyke rauens. Whan they had tolde to saynt Marcyall the harmes & euylles that they had done he cōmaūded them that they sholde departe & go in to places deserte / where as

Rome for to defende þ cause agaynst Byrce. And as he went thiderward he dyed in the cyte of Mercellence. Than þ people made one Armenon bysshop in his stede/ and in þ seuenth yere returned w auctoryte of the pope/ & toke his lodgyngc lyxmyle wout þ cyte. And þ same nyght Armenon the bysshop dyed/ & Byrce knewe it by dyuynre reuelacyon/ and sayd to his people that they shold arysle & haste them for to go & bury þ bysshop of Tours/ whiche was deed. And as Byrce entred at one gate/ the deed bysshop was brought in at another gate. And whan he was buryed saynt Byrce toke his see or syege/ & was bysshop after that seven yere/ and ledde an holy & laudable lyfe. And in the .xliij. yere of his bysshopryche he passed vnto our lord god/ to whome be gyuen laude and gloyre. Amen.

Here foloweth the lyfe of the holy virgyn saynt Clare.

There was a meruaylous holy woman in the cyte of Assyle/ whiche was named Clare. Fyrt ye shall vnderstande þ her natiuite was moche worthy & noble. It is redde that as touchyng þ worlde she was of ryght noble lygnage/ and as touchyng þ spiryte to þ regarde of the state of vertues and noble maners towarde god/ she was of ryght noblereputacyon. Than for to shewe þ after her natyuite she was a deuout spouse to god she is worthy to be of grete recomendacio. It is redde þ whan her moder was entaynted of grete wchylde of her/ on a tyme as she was before the crucyfyre wepyng & prayenge/ þ of his grace he wolde graunte to her þ delyueraunce of her fruyte with ioye & gladnes/ she herd a voyce so deynly sayenge to her. Woman haue þ no doubte/ for wout peryll þ shalt be delyuered of a doughter/ whiche shall by her doctryne enlumyne all þ worlde. And ther-

fore as soone as she was borne/ she did do name her at the font Clare. Secondly is fouden in her lyfe & knowen grete plente of vertues. It is redde that this holy virgyn after þ tyme of her infancye was so composed in all good maners/ in porte/ in mayntene & in cotynuaunce/ that all other myght take of her saye & good ensample for to mayntene & gouerne them. And in especyall she had so grete pyte of þ pooze people/ þ oftē tymes she spared her owne mouth/ & sente by secrete messengers suche as she sholde her selfe haue be susteyned by. Also in makynge deuoute prayer she had so grete pleasure/ þ oftē tymes it semed to her beyng in oryson/ that her spiryte was refreshed w the sweteness of heuen. She was in her araye lyke other but by penaunce she chastysed her body. For how well þ for þ honour of her frēdes she was nobly apparayled/ yet neuertheless she ware alwaye þ hayre on her bare body. And from her infancye her hert had determyned þ for to dye she wolde neuer haue other spouse than Iesu chryst. And many other & plente of vertues shone in her/ whiche were ouer longe to recoūte. Thyrddly how saynt frauceys shewed to her the waye of trouth. It is redde þ as soone as saynt Clare herde the renome of saynt frauceys/ it was spradde ouer all þ worlde as it were a newe man sent in to þ worlde/ she wynged how we ought to folowe the newe waye of Iesu chryst/ she neuer myght haue rest in her hert tyl she was comen to hym/ & that to hē she had opened her hert. Thā after she had swete ly vnderstanden hym/ & had receyued of hym many an holy swete and aūgelyke worde. Saynt frauceys exhorted her aboue all other thynges to flee the worlde bothe w herte & body. And to this he enioyned her þ on palmesondaye she sholde halowe þ feest w the other people/ but the nyght folowynge in remembraunce of the passyō of Iesu chryst/ she shold turne her

The lyfe of saynt Clare.

ioye in to weppynge & afflyccyons. For in
suche wyse to wepe the passyon of Iesu
chryst synably she myght come to heuen
as virgyn & espouse of god well eurous &
happy. ¶ Fourthly how she had no quyet
nes in her herte tyll she had accōplyshed
her thought & purpose. It is redde that
saynt Clare thus enformed of saint fraū
ceys coude haue no rest in her hert/ tyll ſ
p nyght assigned & ſ houre she yssued out
of ſ cite of Assyse in whiche she dwelled/
& came to ſ chyrche of our lady of porciun
cula/ & there ſ freres receyued her/ whi
che awoke in ſ sayd chyrche/ & abode for
her tofore ſ awter of ſ blissed virgin Ma
rye/ & thcre her heere was cut of/ & after
they ladde her in to an abbey of nonnes/ &
there leste her. ¶ Fyftly how her frēdes
despised this werke ordeyned by our lord
It is redde whā this lady was thus or
deyned/ she laboured & dyd so moche ſ she
drew her syster named Agnes in to her
cōpany/ wherfore as well for ſ one as for
that other/ ſ carnall frendes of saynt Cla
re had her in indignacyon out of mesure/
wherfore saint fraūceys trāslated them
in to ſ chyrche of saynt Dampen/ whiche
chyrche by ſ cōmaūdemēt of ſ crucifyxe
he had repayzed. And there this lady be
gan ſ relygyon that was called of poore
systers/ & there she was enclosed in a lytel
cell whiche saynt fraūceys had edyfied
¶ Syxthly she had humylite in her hert
It is redde ſ saynt Clare edyfied herself
soueraynly in humylite/ lyke as ſ wyse
man sayth. Of so moche ſ a creature is
promoted/ of so moche ought he to be the
more humble. Therfore after ſ she had as
sembled a grete couent of holy virgyns/
bnneth & with grete payne yf it had not
ben for ſ obedience of saynt fraūceys she
had neuer receyued ſ soueraynite of them
And after ſ she had receyued ſ domyna
cyon ouer them & gouernaunce/ she was
tofore all other redy to serue them ſ were
seke/ as she had ben an handmayde or ser

uaūt/ & was so humble ſ she wold washe
the feet of her handmaidens & seruaūtes
Whan they came from without fro theyr
werke/ and dyed them/ & kyssed them.
¶ Seuenthy how saynt Clare kepte pos
uerite. It is redde ſ for to kepe & solow po
uerite after ſ gospel of Iesu chryst/ saynt
Clare put therto all her entent/ wherfore
lyth the begynnyng of her holy lyfe all ſ
euer that came to her of fader & moder she
sold & gaue it for goddes sake/ in so moche
that for her ne for her sylsters she had but
symple fedynge & clothynge/ ne wold none
other. And notwithstanding ſ she was als
solyed of ſ pope of the bowe of pouerte/ &
thervpon had receyued lettres of ſ pope
moche sodeynly weppynge/ she wrote a
gayne sayenge. I Wyl well be assolyed of
my synnes/ but ſ bowe of pouerte I shal
kepe vnto ſ deth. ¶ The eyght/ how in
necessyte Iesu chryst byslyted her. It is
redde ſ on a tyme at ſ houre of fiue in the
college of saynt Clare was but one lose of
breed/ ne there myght no more be had/
than saint Clare toke this lose of ſ hande
of the dyspenser/ & made than her prayer
And after of ſ lose made as many loues &
partyes as there were sisters/ & as soone
as eueryche had receyued her parte/ how
well it was but lytell/ the dypnye grace
multyplied it so moche/ ſ eueryche leste
some & had ynough. Also semblably it is
redde ſ god dyd for her/ whan in her col
lege the pottes were fayled. ¶ Nynthly
how in straytnes saynt Clare was ruled
This holy lady was content w one poore
cote lyned w a mantell. She bled neuer
pendaūtes ne furre of skynes/ but despē
ded all her tyme in kepyng her body in
seruage of ſ spiryte. And there w thryes
in the weke she fasted in this maner/ ſ she
neuer tasted thysge that was soden. Also
euery yere she fasted t wo lentens breed &
water onely/ saue the sondaye she toke a
lytell wyne/ & shortly she lyued so strayt
ly ſ she became so feble ſ saynt fraūceys



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